

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 03138 060440Z
ACTION ARA-14

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TO USICA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
SECSTATE WASHDC 1829

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FOR: AR

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA DENOUNCES "TRANSNATIONAL
NEWS MONOPOLY"

1. ACCORDING TO STORY IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY JOURNAL", VENEZUE-
LAN AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA GUIDO GROSCORS, LONG A CRITIC OF INTER-
NATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES, CRITICIZED THE "TRANSNATIONAL NEWS MONOPOLY
IN THE UNITED STATES" FOR ITS REPORTING ON THE COCAINE TRAFFIC IN
COLOMBIA.

2. ACCORDING TO THE DJ STORY, GROSCORS SAID: "ONE MUST BE WARY
OF THIS REPORT BECAUSE THE TRANSNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES ARE TOO
ACCUSTOMED TO DEFORMING OR OBSCURING THE TRUE REALITIES OF OUR
COUNTRIES." THE DJ SAID THE REMARKS WERE MADE FOLLOWING A MEETING
BETWEEN GROSCORS AND PRESIDENT PEREZ.

THE STORY SAID ONE VENEZUELAN REPORTER ASKED GROSCORS IF, IN
VIEW OF THE "60 MINUTES" EPISODE AND LAST YEAR'S NEW YORK TIMES
STORY LINKING PEREZ TO CIA PAYMENTS, THERE WAS A U.S. NEWS CAMPAIGN
AGAINST VENEZUELAN AND COLOMBIAN LEADERS.

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GROSCORS DECLINED TO USE THE TERM "CAMPAIGN," BUT WENT ON TO SAY:
"...I WOULD SAY THAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE MANIPULATIONS
OF TRANSNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES, BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED
IN THE PAST THAT MUCH INFORMATION SPREAD BY THESE NEWS AGENCIES
HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A DEFORMED VIEW OF OUR COUNTRIES."

5. ACCORDING TO THE DJ, GROOSCORS ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS AN ACTIVE DRUG TRADE IN COLOMBIA, BUT SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO STOP IT AND THAT NOT ONLY COLOMBIA, BUT ALL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE SOME PROBLEM WITH DRUG TRAF-FICKING.

6. THE STORY SAID THAT GROOSCORS "EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NOT MEANT TO CRITICIZED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OR ITS CITIZENS. 'I DON'T THINK THAT ONE SHOULD CONFUSE THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE NEWS MONOPOLY BASED IN THE UNITED STATES'..."

KEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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